

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicants have amended claims 4, 8, 9, 14, 18, 31-33, 35-37, 39, and 41. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 15, 20, 21, 23-30, 38, and 42-50 have been canceled. Claims 51 and 52 have been added. Accordingly, claims 4, 8-14, 16-19, 22, 31-37, 39-41, 51, and 52 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

On Page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-25, and 27-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner found the limitation of forwarding the MIPv6-related authentication and authorization information unchanged between the mobile node and the home AAA server to be unclear.

The Applicants have amended the claims to delete the language of forwarding the MIPv6-related authentication and authorization information unchanged between the mobile node and the home AAA server. Independent claims 51 and 52 recite that encrypted authentication and authorization information is passed through the AAA nodes in the visited network without analyzing the encrypted authentication and authorization information. The amendment is supported in the specification on page 4, lines 21-30:

The use of EAP allows the AAA Client to be agnostic to MIPv6 procedures (i.e. this removes the dependency on MIPv6 support in the visited network), and act as mere pass-through agent(s), at least when the HA is located in the home network. In other words, the proposed MIPv6 authentication/authorization solution is transparent to the visited domain, which is one of the major advantages of using a protocol like EAP. This makes it possible to apply prior encryption between MN and AAAh and thereby achieve satisfactory security while roaming in foreign networks with MIPv6. In addition, it makes it possible for an operator to deploy the solution without relying on upgrades in its roaming partners' networks.

Note the intervening AAA nodes in the visited network act as mere pass-through agents (i.e., the solution is transparent to the visited domain). Additionally, as noted, encryption may be applied prior to sending the information from the MN to the AAA home network server, which means that the information is not only unchanged, it is not even inspected or evaluated by the intervening AAA nodes.

Since the Applicants have deleted the unclear language regarding the forwarding of the information unchanged, the withdrawal of the § 112 rejection is respectfully requested.

On Page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 27-30, 32-36, and 42-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. These claims were drafted in means plus function format, and the Examiner contends there is no corresponding structure in the specification.

The Applicants have canceled claims 27, 29, 30, and 42-46. Claims 32-36 and 47-50 have been amended to delete the “means for” language.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

On Page 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-10, 12-17, 19-25, 27-33, 35-40, and 42-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Faccin, et al. (hereinafter “Faccin”) “Diameter Mobile IPv6 Application, draft-le-aaa-diameter-mobileipv6-6-03.txt,” Internet Draft, XP015004098, published in April 2003. Of these claims, claims 1-2, 5-7, 15, 20, 21, 23-25, 27-30, 38, and 42-50 have been canceled. The Applicants have amended the remaining claims to better distinguish the claimed invention from Faccin. The Examiner’s consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

The Applicants have added new independent claims 51 and 52. These new claims recite in detail the method and system as illustrated in FIGS. 1-4. Many of the steps expressly state that the authentication and authorization information is passed through the AAA client and the visited AAA server without analyzing the information.

Faccin does not teach or suggest a system or method in which authentication and authorization information is transferred between the mobile node and the home AAA server without being analyzed by nodes in the visited network. Therefore, the allowance of new claims 51 and 52 is respectfully requested. The withdrawal of the § 102 rejection of dependent claims 4, 8-10, 12-14, 16, 17, 19, 22, 31-33, 35-37, 39, and 40 is respectfully requested.

4.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

On Page 18 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 11, 18, 34, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Faccin, as applied to claims 1 and 24 above, and further in view of Akhtar, et al. (hereinafter “Akhtar”)., (hereinafter “Akhtar”), U.S. Patent No. 7,079,499, filed on September 7, 2000. The Applicants respectfully submit that new independent claims 51 and 52 also distinguish the claimed invention from the combination of Faccin and Akhtar.

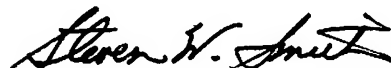
The Examiner relies upon Faccin to show the limitations of an end-to-end procedure between a mobile node operating in a visited network and the mobile node's home AAA server in which intervening AAA network nodes forward the AAA information in a procedure transparent to the visited network. He then cites Akhtar to show the additional limitations recited in dependent claims 11, 18, 34, and 41. However, as noted above, Faccin does not teach or suggest a system or method in which authentication and authorization information is passed through the AAA client and the visited AAA server without analyzing the information. Likewise, Akhtar does not teach or suggest these limitations. Thus, a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established as required by MPEP 2143. Therefore, the withdrawal of the § 103 rejection and the allowance of claims 11, 18, 34, and 41 are respectfully requested.

5.) Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 4, 8-14, 16-19, 22, 31-37, 39-41, 51, and 52.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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